

CLAIMS

1. – 55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

electronically receiving a definition of a first group identifying a first plurality of users;

automatically generating the first group having the first plurality of users according to the definition of the first group;

electronically receiving a definition of a second group identifying a second plurality of users;

automatically generating the second group having the second plurality of users according to the definition of the second group;

receiving a definition of a desired group, where the definition of the desired group explicitly specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and explicitly specifies the second group is to be excluded from the desired group; and

automatically generating the desired group to include the first group and exclude the second group according to the received definition of the desired group.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 where the definition of the first group or the second group identifies one or more properties shared by the users in the first group or the second group; and

dynamically generating the first group or the second group according to the received definition.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 where the definition of the first group or the second group statically defines the users in the group; and

generating the first group or the second group according to the received definition.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56 where the first group is a private group available to one or more owners of the first group and unavailable to non-owners of the first group, the second group is a private group available to one or more owners of the second

group and unavailable to non-owners of the second group, and the desired group is a public group available to both the owners of the first and second groups and the non-owners of the first and second groups.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59 includes electronically receiving a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the third group is a public group available to both the owners of the first and second groups and the non-owners of the first and second groups; and

electronically receiving a definition of a desired public group, where the definition of the desired public group specifies that the first group and the third group are to be included in the different desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired public group.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56 includes electronically receiving ~~electronically receiving~~ a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group and the third group are to be included in the desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired group.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56 includes electronically receiving ~~electronically receiving~~ a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and the second group and the third group are to be excluded from the desired group.

63. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising a computer-readable medium having instructions, when executed by a processor or multiple communicating processors, perform a method comprising:

receiving a definition of a first group identifying a first plurality of users;
generating the first group having the first plurality of users according to the definition of the first group;
receiving a definition of a second group identifying a second plurality of users;
generating the second group having the second plurality of users according to the definition of the second group;

receiving a definition of a desired group, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired group; and

generating the desired group to include the first group and exclude the second group according to the received definition of the desired group.

64. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 63 where the definition of the first group or the second group identifies one or more properties shared by the users in the first group or the second group; and

dynamically generating the first group or the second group according to the received definition.

65. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 63 where the definition of the first group or the second group statically defines the users in the group; and

generating the first group or the second group according to the received definition.

66. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 63 where the first group is a private group available to one or more owners of the first group and unavailable to non-owners of the first group, the second group is a private group available to one or more owners of the second group and unavailable to non-owners of the second group, and the desired group is a public group available to both the owners of the first and second groups and the non-owners of the first and second groups.

67. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 66 includes receiving a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the third group is a public group available to both the owners of the first and second groups and the non-owners of the first and second groups; and

receiving a definition of a desired public group, where the definition of the desired public group specifies that the first group and the third group are to be included in the different desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired public group.

68. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 63 includes receiving a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group and the third group are to be included in the desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired group.

69. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 63 includes receiving a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and the second group and the third group are to be excluded from the desired group.

70. (Previously presented) A system comprising:
means for receiving a definition of a first group identifying a first plurality of users;
means for generating the first group having the first plurality of users according to the definition of the first group;
means for receiving a definition of a second group identifying a second plurality of users;
means for generating the second group having the second plurality of users according to the definition of the second group;
means for receiving a definition of a desired group, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired group; and
means for generating the desired group to include the first group and exclude the second group according to the received definition of the desired group.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70 where the definition of the first group or the second group identifies one or more properties shared by the users in the first group or the second group; and
means for dynamically generating the first group or the second group according to the received definition.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70 where the definition of the first group or the second group statically defines the users in the group; and

means for generating the first group or the second group according to the received definition.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70 where the first group is a private group available to one or more owners of the first group and unavailable to non-owners of the first group, the second group is a private group available to one or more owners of the second group and unavailable to non-owners of the second group, and the desired group is a public group available to both the owners of the first and second groups and the non-owners of the first and second groups.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 73 includes means for receiving a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the third group is a public group available to both the owners of the first and second groups and the non-owners of the first and second groups; and

means for receiving a definition of a desired public group, where the definition of the desired public group specifies that the first group and the third group are to be included in the different desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired public group.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70 includes means for receiving a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group and the third group are to be included in the desired group and the second group is to be excluded from the desired group.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70 includes means for receiving a definition of a third group of a plurality of users, where the definition of the desired group specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and the second group and the third group are to be excluded from the desired group.

77. (Previously presented) A device comprising:

an interface to receive definitions of a plurality of groups, each group specifying a plurality of items and indicating that the group is either available for inclusion into a desired group or not available for inclusion into the desired group; and

a processing system to generate a desired group from at least one of the plurality of groups available for inclusion into the desired group and exclude all of the plurality of groups not available for inclusion into the desired group.

78. (Previously presented) The device of claim 77 where the definition of the at least one of the plurality of groups identifies one or more properties shared by the items in the group, where the processing system is configured to generate the group according to the received definition.

79. (Currently Amended) The ~~device method~~ of claim 77 where the definition of the at least one of the plurality of groups statically defines the items in that group, and where the processing system is configured to generate the group according to the received definition.

80. (Currently Amended) The ~~device method~~ of claim 77 where the plurality of groups are a private groups available to one or more owners of the corresponding groups and unavailable to non-owners of the corresponding groups, and the desired group is a public group available to both the owners of the groups and the non-owners of the groups.

81. (Currently Amended) The ~~device method~~ of claim 77 where the processing system is configured to generate another desired group from at least one of the plurality of groups available for inclusion into the another desired group and the previously generated desired group, the processing system excluding all of the plurality of groups not available for inclusion into the desired group.

82. (Currently Amended) The ~~device method~~ of claim 77 where the processing system is configured to manage security of communications over a network according to at least one of the desired group or the plurality of groups, the processing system to manage security of

communications over a network by associating one or more network security privileges or resources accessible on the network with the desired group or the plurality of groups.

83. (New) The apparatus of claim 63 where the definition explicitly specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and explicitly specifies the second group is to be excluded from the desired group.

84. (New) The system of claim 70 where the definition explicitly specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and explicitly specifies the second group is to be excluded from the desired group.

85. (New) The device of claim 77 where the definition explicitly specifies that the first group is to be included in the desired group and explicitly specifies the second group is to be excluded from the desired group.